

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in original claims 1-32 and in the specification at, e.g., page 12, line 23, to page 13, line 23; and page 37, line 18, to page 38, line 20. These amendments add no new matter.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the requirement for restriction, applicants elect Group I, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising and antibody that binds to AILIM. The election is made with traverse.

Original claims 1-32 were directed to pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment or prevention of specific diseases or conditions. The claims were divided into six restriction groups based upon the active ingredients contained in the compositions. As amended, all of the claims are now directed to methods of treating or preventing the specific diseases or conditions by administering to a subject a composition containing a substance that modulates signal transduction mediated by AILIM. Specific embodiments of active ingredients used in the claimed methods are recited in dependent claims.

In light of the amendments to the claims to recite methods of treatment and prevention, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the requirement for restriction. As amended, each of the claims recites an administration step that carries patentable weight. Given the overlapping nature of the compositions used to treat or prevent the specific diseases and conditions, prosecution will be facilitated by the simultaneous examination of all of the claims. Accordingly, applicants request that the Examiner rejoin all of the claims for examination.


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Page : 9 of 9

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Respectfully submitted,

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